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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Approved by SJS

District Attorney Lisa S. Green announced that today a Kern County jury convicted Garry Vansant of misdemeanor vehicular manslaughter. On March 7, 2017, Vansant struck and killed Sara Hernandez, 41 years old, as she was crossing the street at Ashe Road and McKee Road, in the unmarked crosswalk, to get to Bakersfield Sports Village Soccer Park. It was 9:46 a.m. on a very clear day when Vansant, driving his 2007 Chevrolet Silverado, became distracted and stopped looking at the road. He was going 47 miles per hour and did not brake until after hitting her. Sara Hernandez died instantly. She was married with 4 children ranging in age from elementary school to college. Sentencing is scheduled for March 16, 2018. Vansant is facing up to one year in jail.

District Attorney Green commented that "this is a tragedy for everyone involved. It is the driver's responsibility to drive in such a way so as not to endanger others on the street. This case is an example of when distraction can be deadly."